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9/29/06

**United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region V  
POLLUTION REPORT**

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



264217

**Date:** Friday, September 29, 2006**From:** Verneta Simon, Anita Boseman, Tom Cook, OSC

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**Subject:** # 11 & Final POLREP  
 Calumet Container  
 3631 State Line Avenue, Hammond, IN  
 Latitude: 41.9769  
 Longitude: -87.5236

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	11	<b>Site #:</b>	0566
<b>Reporting Period:</b>		<b>D.O. #:</b>	#35
<b>Start Date:</b>	9/28/2005	<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA
<b>Mob Date:</b>	10/5/2005	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Completion Date:</b>	9/28/2006	<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL
<b>CERCLIS ID #:</b>	IND980500193	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>RCRIS ID #:</b>		<b>Contract #</b>	68-S5-03-06

**Site Description**

The Calumet Container site (Site) is located at 3631 State Line Avenue in Hammond, Lake County, Indiana. The Site occupies approximately 7.7 acres in a mixed industrial and residential area. The Site is now entirely in Indiana. The site is bounded to the north by 136th Street and by the Indiana Harbor Belt Railway in every other direction. Wolf Lake, an interstate and recreational fishing lake, is located approximately 100 yards north of the Site. Powderhorn Lake, another recreational lake, is located approximately 60 yards southwest of the Site. The geographic coordinates for the site are latitude 41° 38' 57" north and longitude 87° 31' 25" west.

The Calumet Container property is currently surrounded by chain-link and barbed wire fencing. The Site is covered with native prairie grass and three stands of trees are located within the 7.7-acre site. Other site features include a small pond with wetland-type vegetative "plugs" planted along the shoreline. Pipelines owned by three separate companies also run through the property.

The Site operated as a drum and pail reconditioning and fiber drum processing facility from the 1960s until April 21, 1982. Numerous environmental violations regarding air and water contamination and material disposal were cited against the facility during its operational lifetime. Property inspections and investigations conducted in 1980 revealed elevated levels of phenolics, toluene, xylene, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), and heavy metals in Site groundwater. On April 16, 1982, the Indiana Attorney General filed an Enforcement Action against the Calumet Container Corporation.

Five days after the Enforcement Action was filed an explosion and fire destroyed the main building at the Site. U.S. EPA removed 30 cubic yards of sludge and 5,500 gallons of contaminated liquid from the Site as part of a 14-day Immediate Removal Action that began on May 7, 1982. U.S. EPA requested that the property owner remediate the remainder of the contamination left on the property. The property owner was unable to organize the responsible parties and U.S. EPA initiated a Removal Action.

The Removal Action began on January 9, 1984, and focused on removing hazardous containerized liquids, solids, and sludges. A heavily contaminated loading dock was dismantled and removed. The loading dock and other areas that contained visibly stained soil, were excavated and backfill with clay.

On November 15, 2001, IDEM's State Clean-up Program performed a follow-up investigation at the Site. During this investigation, surface soil sample results indicated that elevated levels of metals still existed at the Site.

A site assessment conducted by U.S. EPA and START in February 2002 revealed that several drums, scrap metal, tanker trucks, the old building foundation, and paint chips and residue still remained at the Site. Investigative soil sample results indicated that lead, chromium, and PCBs were present in the soil above U.S. EPA Region IX PRG criteria levels. An additional site assessment conducted by U.S. EPA and START in April and May 2002 indicated that concentrations of lead, cadmium, chromium, arsenic, iron, ethylbenzene, toluene, total xylenes, and 1,2-dichloropropane were present in subsurface soil above criteria levels.

An Action Memorandum completed by U.S. EPA on November 4, 2002, requested that funds be available to complete a time-critical removal action at the Site. The scope of the action is to excavate and dispose of approximately 19,250 cubic yards of contaminated soil.

U.S. EPA, ERRS, START, and IDEM completed a site walkthrough on December 6, 2004. A land survey was completed on January 7, 2005.

On December 13 and 14, 2004 and June 1, 2005, IDEM collected groundwater samples from the existing monitoring wells on the Site.

On February 25, 2005, a letter was sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) for a jurisdiction determination for the Calumet Container Site. A response received from the COE on March 14, 2005, stated that on-site wetlands fall under the COE; however, on-site clean-up was being performed by the U.S. EPA under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). COE determined that in accordance with its Regulatory Guidance Letters 85-07, 89-02, and 94-02, activities performed under CERCLA do not require authorization from COE under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Therefore, U.S. EPA did not apply for a permit.

In August 2005, a local resident notified U.S. EPA and IDEM that sections of the perimeter fencing around the Site were down.

In September 2005, ERRS repaired the perimeter fencing.

### **Current Activities**

None

### **Planned Removal Actions**

After the fence was repaired, U.S. EPA, START and ERRS mobilized to the Site on October 5, 2005. On March 6, 2006, following removal of contaminated soil and water, the site trailer was demobilized. Seeding activities to provide a vegetative cover consisting of native prairie grass and replace trees occurred during April 2006.

From October 2005 until September 2006, the following removal activities were performed at the Calumet Container site:

Air monitoring

Sampling and removal of the contents of on-site tanker trucks

Contaminated soil removal and transport to Forest Lawn Landfill for disposal

Confirmation soil sampling

Sampling and removal of green liquid in on-site excavations

Soil excavation along the railroad

Site backfilling

Moving the west fence line to Indiana

Restoration – vegetative cover, replaced trees, installed wetland plugs

### **Next Steps**

On September 22, 2006, final Site restoration efforts which involved application of herbicides and mowing of native prairie grass occurred.

### **Key Issues**

Soil containing contaminants at concentrations exceeding action levels still remain along the railroad and pipeline right-of-ways. Structural and safety concerns prohibited U.S. EPA from removing this contamination.

On April 21, 2006 an Earth Day event with the City of Hammond, Thomas Easterly, IDEM Commissioner, and Bharat Mathur, Acting U.S. EPA Regional Administrator was held. This event was held after the Site had been seeded, and approximately 48 trees and 40 shrubs were planted. On June 20, 2006, the Hammond Department of Environmental Management (HDEM) hosted a tour of the Site for an Expanded Studies Summer Program which was sponsored by the Edison Elementary School in Hammond, IN.

During August 2006, at a neighboring property on the northwest side of the Site, NIPSCO treated invasive plants (phragmites). By NIPSCO treating the phragmites, we now have a buffer zone along the south side of Boy Scouts Road (AKA 136th Street).

Also, in August, the pipeline companies have been diligent about monitoring for fly dumping along the Site's boundaries. Personnel from the pipeline companies noticed that fly dumping had occurred and took the initiative to investigate and remove the dumped materials.

On September 28, 2006 a notice in the Federal Register ( Vol. 71, No. 188, pages 56975-56976) was published to inform interested parties of our proposed settlement with the potentially responsible parties (PRPs). A final OSC report is being prepared for later distribution to the PRPs and any other interested parties.

#### **Estimated Costs \***

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Total To Date</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>% Remaining</b>
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$2,155,400.00	\$2,116,253.05	\$39,146.95	1.82%
RST/START	\$52,000.00	\$50,316.05	\$1,683.95	3.24%
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
<b>Total Site Costs</b>	<b>\$2,207,400.00</b>	<b>\$2,166,569.10</b>	<b>\$40,830.90</b>	<b>1.85%</b>

\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

#### **Disposition of Wastes**

Lead and organics-contaminated soil - 30,846.82 tons (20,565 cubic yards)

Recyclable scrap - 500 cubic yards

Wood Chips - 1,400 cubic yards

Brush - 90 cubic yards

Tires - 60 cubic yards

Non-hazardous, non-DOT regulated groundwater - 107,425 gallons

[epaosc.net/CalumetContainer](http://epaosc.net/CalumetContainer)